

REMARKS

By the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1, 17, 34, 35, 37, 39, 40 and 54 have been amended, and Claims 31-33 have been cancelled. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 6-19, 21-30, 40 and 44-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) on the grounds of anticipation by Ferrera et al. (6,171,326). Claims 1, 17 and 40 have been amended to recite "an inner reinforcement member extending through the first portion and the anchor portion to reinforce the anchor portion, said inner reinforcement member having a distal end fixedly attached to said distal end of said at least one strand, and said inner reinforcement member having a proximal end detachably mounted to the pusher member." Claim 54 similarly has been amended to recite "an inner reinforcement member extending through the first portion and the anchor portion, said inner reinforcement member having a distal end fixedly attached to said distal end of said at least one strand, and said inner reinforcement member having a proximal end detachably mounted to a pusher member." Support for the amendments can be found in the specification at page 16, lines 4-12. It is respectfully submitted that there is no evidence or suggestion in Ferrera et al. of such a configuration, and the Examiner has presented no evidence that such a configuration would be implicit in Ferrera et al. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 3, 6-19, 21-30, 40 and 44-55 patentably distinguish Ferrera et al., and that the rejection of Claims 1, 3, 6-19, 21-30, 40 and 44-55 on the grounds of anticipation by Ferrera et al. should be withdrawn.

Claims 31-33, 37 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) on the grounds of obviousness from Ferrera et al. in view of Marks. Claims 31-33, 37 and 39 have been cancelled. The Examiner acknowledged that Ferrera et al. fails to teach an inner reinforcement member, and Marks was cited as disclosing a common inner reinforcement member for guidance of a device through a catheter. Claims 1, 17, 40 and 54 have been amended to include the feature of an inner reinforcement member, as well as the feature that the inner reinforcement member has a distal end fixedly attached to the distal end of the at least one strand, and a proximal end detachably mounted to a pusher member. It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Ferrera et al. and Marks does not teach an inner reinforcement member having a proximal end detachably mounted to a pusher member, as claimed. It is respectfully submitted the Examiner has not provided any evidence that it was conventional in the art to provide an inner reinforcement member having a proximal end detachably mounted to a pusher member, or that such a configuration would be predictable from the references cited. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the claims as amended patentably distinguish the references cited.

Claims 34 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) on the grounds of obviousness from Ferrera et al. in view of Marks, and further in view of Ken (U.S. Patent 5,582,619). Claims 34 and 35 have been amended to depend from Claim 17, which patentably distinguishes the combination of Ferrera et al. Marks, and Ken, as discussed above, so that it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of Claims 34 and 35 on the grounds of obviousness from Ferrera et al. in view of Marks, and further in view of Ken should be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application should now be in condition for allowance, and an early favorable action in this regard is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies or fees in connection with this amendment to Deposit Account No. 06-2425.

Respectfully submitted,
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